



# The Constellation

The Monthly Newsletter of Strathmillan School

APRIL  
2026

## MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

April will be a busy but stellar month. We're excited to open our doors for student-led conferences, an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they know and can do. For the last three weeks of April, we are focusing on aspects of healthy lifestyles, with one week dedicated to each of nutrition, mental health, and physical fitness.

Thank you to Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Thompson for taking over Room 41 during Ms. Richardson's absence. It's nice for the class to have familiar Strathmillan teachers providing continuity for learning. Likewise, thank you to Ms. Baldwin for stepping into Room 30 during Ms. Allan's temporary absence.

At Strathmillan, we are improving reading instruction in the early years to ensure every child develops a strong, confident foundation in reading. We have been using a school-wide assessment to help teachers spot early reading strengths and needs. It's a friendly check-in to make sure every child is on the right path. At the same time, we remain deeply committed to play, joy, curiosity, and meaningful learning in the early years. A love of reading grows when learning is engaging and joyful.

In keeping with our goal of academic excellence, we will be adjusting grade structures for next year. To the extent possible, we will feature more single grade classrooms, especially in grades K – 2. The changes will require a few new room assignments, beginning with Room 3 (Ms. Moniz) moving to room 12 in April and Ms. Orsulak's space shifting from room 40 to room 6. These changes will allow us to create a grade K-2 hallway and a grade 3-5 hallway.

Warren Nickerson and Kellie Straub

**Are you interested in volunteering as a Project Fair judge?** We need just a couple more volunteers to give feedback to student projects on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Principal Warren Nickerson at 204-888-0148.



# STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

We are all looking forward to student-led conferences. Students will show their parents / guardians what they are learning about and how much progress they have made. The conferences happen on **April 9<sup>th</sup>** in the evening. Caregivers play an important role in these conferences by encouraging and celebrating their child’s progress and achievement. Teachers are on hand to answer questions and guide the process.

Appointments will be made through our school appointments app at [Strathmillan School Conference Manager](#) ([LINK](#)). We’ll book no more than three families into each block of time so there’s enough elbow room.

## GETTING THE MOST FROM CONFERENCES

Here are some tips for making student-led conferences meaningful and successful. First, it truly matters that a caring adult attends. If schedules are tight and a caregiver can’t be there, it’s perfectly fine for a grandparent, auntie, or another trusted adult to come instead. Students spend days preparing, and it can be disappointing if they don’t get to share their learning with someone important to them.



One simple way to make the most of the conference is to *notice and name*. Feedback begins with recognizing and describing what your child knows and can do. You might say, “I see you’ve got a strategy for adding two-digit numbers.” There’s no judgment—just an acknowledgment of what the child is showing: noticing (“adding two-digit numbers”) and naming (“a strategy”).

Asking open-ended questions also helps keep the conversation positive and productive. You might try:

- How do you feel about your learning in math so far?
- Is the reading you’re doing too easy, too hard, or just right?
- What do you want to get better at?
- How can you continue practicing at home, and how can I support you?

Although conferences often focus on achievement, it's also helpful to talk about learning behaviours—effort, participation, and attitude. For example:

- Can you share a time when you actively participated in class? How did it help your learning?
- Tell me about a moment when you worked hard on something challenging.
- Do you feel confident in your math learning? Show me something you can do now that you couldn't do at the start of the year.

When students take the lead, they practice real-life skills like organization, communication, and self-reflection. They begin to understand their own learning and set meaningful goals. When the dialogue goes well, students leave feeling heard, supported, and motivated to keep growing.

## APRIL is HEALTH MONTH

Exciting news! April 13-30 Strathmillan will be celebrating *Healthy Schools Month*. Each week will have a new focus - nutrition, mental health, or physical health.

During Health Month, students will participate in daily classroom activities connected to each weekly theme, along with a variety of school-wide activities designed to promote healthy living.

Students will receive a Health Month BINGO card featuring fun, healthy activities to complete at home with their families. BINGO cards will be sent home after Spring Break and should be returned by the end of the month to be entered into a prize draw.

Health Month is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to learn, reflect, and make positive choices together. Let's work as a team to build healthy habits and make wellbeing a priority!



# PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – APRIL UPDATES

In March, the Strathmillan PAC featured a fun lunch with food from iHop. In addition, we showed the staff our appreciation by organizing an ice coffee bar for the staff room.

Here's what's coming up for PAC this month. Please take a moment to note the important dates and deadlines below.



## April PAC Meeting

**Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 pm**  
**Location: Strathmillan Library**

All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend our April PAC meeting. It's a great way to stay in the loop and share ideas or questions.

## April Fun Lunch – Subway

**Friday, April 24**  
**Order cut-off: Sunday, April 19**

Subway Fun Lunch is coming up!. Orders must be placed through [healthyhunger.ca](https://healthyhunger.ca). Please be sure to place your order before the cut-off, as late orders can't be accepted.

## Glenlea Greenhouse Fundraiser

Get ready for spring planting and support our school at the same time.

**Order online:** <https://glenleagreenhouses.com/collections/2026-spring-fundraiser-home-page>  
**Ordering closes:** April 15  
**Pick-up location:** Strathmillan School  
**Pick-up date:** Thursday, May 28 3:45 pm

Thanks for your continued support of Strathmillan's Parent Council! If you have any questions or would like to get involved, feel free to reach out to us at [strathcommcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:strathcommcouncil@gmail.com)



For all updates, please follow our Instagram account **@strathparentcouncil**

# STRATHMILLAN ONLINE STORE



Show your Strathmillan Stars pride with our new school spirit wear pop-up shop online. We've created this store in partnership with a local Manitoba company, Xi Promotions.

The pop-up features a selection of school-branded clothing and accessories proudly displaying the Strathmillan Stars logo—perfect for students, staff, and alumni. Featured items include logo stickers, T-shirts, hoodies, sweatpants and hats (both snapback hats and toques). Many items feature a selection of colours in both youth and adult sizes.



The clothing might make great gifts for students continuing at Strathmillan, or serve as a memento for those grade 5 students saying farewell at the end of June.

Included in the price is a \$2 fundraising contribution that goes directly back to supporting Strathmillan School initiatives. Taxes are extra.

To access the pop-up store, click the following link, or click the blue image below: [Strathmillan School Spirit Wear 2026](#)



**SHOP ONLINE HERE:**  
**STRATHMILLAN SCHOOL**  
**SPIRIT WEAR 2026**  
(XI PROMOTIONS – ORDERMYGEAR  
PLATFORM)

The pop-up shop will be accepting orders until April 26<sup>th</sup> at midnight.

✦ **Get your Strathmillan swag and shine!** ✦

## PILOT PROGRAM – FREE MILK IN IN MAY

Strathmillan School has been offering fee-based milk program. We have been reflecting on whether the cost of milk can be included in our program in order to lower fees for families.

The provincial nutrition program can fund chocolate milk only occasionally (maximum two times per month). In May, we offer free milk for lunch every Tuesday and Thursday for parents who order in advance.

The deadline to order milk for May is **April 24**. Parents can order milk through the following online form: [May Milk Order Form – Fill out form](#)



We will discontinue the paid milk program at the end of April. Please use up any paid milk tickets that you have purchased by the end of April.

## LIBRARY - Ms. Branco



### Scholastic Book Fair!

**Thursday, April 9 - 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Friday, April 10 - 9:00 am to 11:30 am**

**Where: Strathmillan Library**

Mark your calendars so you will not miss the Scholastic Book Fair. It's a special time for our Strathmillan School community.

Our Book Fair gives you and your children the opportunity to buy carefully selected books and products, and our Book Fair serves as a fund raiser for the school library!

Watch for the flyer highlighting a few of the hundreds of books available at the fair. We look forward to seeing you. Happy reading!

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Orsulak

Kindergarten and Grade 1 students have just wrapped up a gymnastics unit, where students practiced balance, supports, rolls and body awareness. Students continued to improve their underhand and overhand throwing, as well as their catching skills. Everyone worked hard, made great progress, and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the unit.

We are now moving into our dance unit! Students will be learning and participating in fun,

community-building dances such as the Bunny Hop, the Hokey Pokey, and Jigging. These dances help develop rhythm, coordination, and teamwork.

- Ms. Orsulak

Grade 2 and 3 students enjoyed playing some Stick Sports in March. The main games we focused on were Pilo Polo, Ball Hockey and Gym Ringette.

Students learned how to properly hold the stick, practiced their passing / shooting / stickhandling and participated in full games with their classmates. A fun time was had by all!

Grade 4+5 students focused solely on Gym Ringette. Students enjoyed learning the rules and strategies for this

fast-paced sport. By the end of our unit, students were playing full-court games at a great pace. It was so much fun to watch as the games were fast and intense!

Looking ahead to April, students will begin their last lunchtime intramural of the year. They will need to choose between Team Handball on Monday's or Badminton on Wednesday's. Decisions, Decisions, Decisions...

Grade 4+5 Volleyball Club will begin right after Spring Break as well as we prepare for our District #2 Volleyball Tournament on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to watch for the permission form that will be sent home with students.

- Mr. McKenzie



# MUSIC EDUCATION – Ms. Dawson

## *Winnipeg Music Festival*

Our Primary choir earned gold and the Intermediate choir, silver, from the adjudicators at the Winnipeg Music Festival in March. The intermediate choir also sang O Canada at the Manitoba Moose game. Congratulations, choristers!

Our school division supports an integration of the arts in education. In keeping with Health Month, Strathmillan has invited Chris Scholl to lead students in rhythm workshops.

Chris engages students in drumming to demonstrate ways that music can help people to celebrate, to reduce stress and to connect with one another.



## *Collaboration With Manitoba Chamber Orchestra*

We were delighted to host Ms. Suzu Enns, Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra for a workshop for grade 1 students. Our students made musical instruments – egg shakers – with different seeds (corn, pumpkin, sunflower). Each egg shaker had a somewhat different sound quality. The students decorated their egg shakers with stickers and patterned tape and tried some rhythms.



In May, our grades 4 – 5 students will experience a concert with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and members of Papa Mombo at the West End Cultural Centre.

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 <b>PATROL SQUAD 3</b>	6   Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strathmillan Childcare Centre closed (Easter Monday)</li> <li>Classes resume</li> </ul>	7   Day 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Fair setup begins</li> <li>Primary Choir</li> <li>Crafting Club</li> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 41)</li> <li>Early Dismissal</li> <li>Strathmillan PAC Meeting (6 – 7 PM)</li> </ul>	8   Day 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Fair judging (AM)</li> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 41)</li> <li>Book Fair walkthroughs</li> </ul>	9   Day 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rm 13 – 14 Field Trip (MTYP)</li> <li>Project Fair Viewing</li> <li>Intermediate Choir</li> <li>Book Fair</li> <li>Student-led Conferences</li> </ul>	10   Day 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student-led Conferences (AM)</li> <li>Book Fair 9 – 11:30 AM</li> <li>Inservice (no school)</li> </ul>	11
APR. 13 – 17 NUTRITIONAL HEALTH WEEK						
12 <b>PATROL SQUAD 4</b>	13   Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health month kick off</li> </ul>	14   Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crafting Club</li> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 25)</li> <li>Primary Choir</li> </ul>	15   Day 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 25)</li> <li>Grade 6 Information Event at Golden Gate Middle School (6-7 PM)</li> </ul>	16   Day 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate Choir</li> </ul>	17   Day 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapted Swimming</li> <li>Divisional Children's Choir Performance</li> </ul>	18
APR. 20 – 24 MENTAL HEALTH WEEK						
19 <b>PATROL SQUAD 1</b>	20   Day 6	21   Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Choir</li> <li>Crafting Club</li> <li>Early Dismissal</li> </ul>	22   Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 27)</li> </ul>	23   Day 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Scholl – DNADrumming – workshop series begins</li> <li>Intermediate Choir</li> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 27)</li> </ul>	24   Day 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapted Swimming</li> <li>Deadline to order free milk in May</li> <li>Deadline for pop-up store</li> </ul>	25
April 27 -30 PHYSICAL HEALTH WEEK						
26 <b>PATROL SQUAD 2</b>	27   Day 5	28   Day 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crafting Club</li> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 41)</li> <li>Primary Choir</li> </ul>	29   Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Scholl drumming workshops conclude</li> <li>Lego Club (Rm. 38, 41)</li> </ul>	30   Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate Choir</li> </ul>	1   Day 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inservice (no school)</li> </ul>	2

## UPCOMING DATES in MAY

- May 1 – Inservice (no school)
- May 18 – Victoria Day (no school)
- May 21 – When Mozart meets Motown
- May 21 – Welcome to Kindergarten